

SB 511 -- JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIFE SCIENCES

CO-SPONSORS: Kinder, Goode, Loudon, Steelman (Holand)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill creates the Joint Committee on the Life Sciences to make recommendations to the General Assembly on the implementation of Missouri's strategic plan for life sciences and on actions necessary to nurture and support new and existing life science research and commercialization. Recommendations may include changes in statutes, executive branch actions and policies, and state investments and taxes. The committee may also consider improvements in the coordination of existing scientific resources, including those at colleges and universities.

The committee consists of seven representatives appointed by the Speaker and the Minority Floor Leader of the House of Representatives and seven senators appointed by the President Pro Tem and the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate. No more than four representatives or four senators can be from the same political party. Members serve for their entire term of office, and the chair alternates between the House of Representatives and the Senate biennially. The committee will meet at least quarterly and submit an annual report to the General Assembly by January 15.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will provide the state with an opportunity to unite government and industry behind the promotion and implementation of life sciences research.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Kinder; Citizens for a Healthy Missouri; and Missouri Biotechnology Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst